

## Against the Grain

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# Taking Charge: Preserving Our Digital Heritage Part I

Amy Kohrman

*Stanford University*, [akohrman@stanford.edu](mailto:akohrman@stanford.edu)

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# Against the Grain

"Linking Publishers, Vendors and Librarians"

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## Taking Charge: Preserving Our Digital Heritage Part I

by **Amy Kohrman** (Marketing Director, LOCKSS/CLOCKSS, 1450 Page Mill Road, Palo Alto, CA 94305; Phone: 650-721-5838) <akohrman@stanford.edu> [www.clockss.org](http://www.clockss.org)

This issue is the first of a two-part series on digital preservation. Six librarians and one publisher describe their experiences with digital preservation. Some have fashioned their own solutions. Some have entrusted others to safeguard their collections. Unifying them is the desire to ensure the survival of e-content for future generations. Because so many insightful essays about digital preservation were submitted, both the February and April issues of *Against the Grain* will be devoted to this important topic.

In full disclosure, I am the Marketing Director of LOCKSS and CLOCKSS, and many of the contributors participate in one or both of these preservation methods.

The articles we present speak to four fundamental principles in the area of digital preservation. First, stakeholders — publishers, libraries, states — must take charge of the preservation of their digital collections. Second, the misperception that digital preservation is costly and labor intensive, or that it is a luxury,

must be overcome. Third, unlike print-based collections, access to and the integrity of digital works are much more vulnerable. Finally, these materials must be preserved not simply because they are important today, but because they constitute our scientific, historical, cultural, and economic heritage.

### Inside this issue, you will hear from:

- **Vic Elliott**, Director, Scholarly Information Services and University Librarian, **The Australian National University**, a tireless champion of digital preservation, argues that libraries have lost much of their influence and power and describes how the **CLOCKSS** initiative offers them a chance to regain some of what they have lost.

- **Glen Worthey**, Head, Humanities Digital Information Service, **Stanford University**, details the kind of loss that is possible in an all-digital medium. **Glen** describes what happened recently at two online literary journals: *The Absinthe Literary Review* and *Exquisite Corpse*. Fortunately, these "born

digital" humanities journals had made arrangements for preservation; had they not, their valuable content would have disappeared without a trace.

- **Heather Staines**, Global eProduct Manager at **Springer Science + Business Media** is committed to helping libraries preserve their collections. A frequent speaker at library conferences, **Heather** writes about trying to navigate the uncharted waters of eBook preservation and **Springer's** diversified approach to meeting its digital preservation needs.

- **Peter Burnhill**, Director, **EDINA Data Centre**, **University of Edinburgh**, writes

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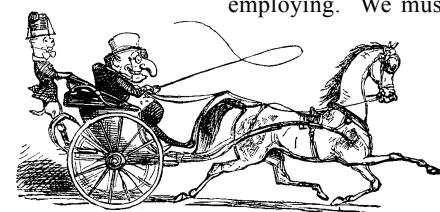
## If Rumors Were Horses

### Lots continues to happen in our space.

The fantastic **Tom McNally** has been appointed **Dean of Libraries** at the **University of South Carolina**. **Tom** has served as interim dean of the **University of South Carolina** libraries since 2007. He joined the libraries nearly 19 years ago as university librarian for public services. "The library plays a key role in the process of teaching, learning and research," **McNally** said. "We must continue to build and conserve our collections. We must work every day to develop services that keep pace with the technologies that our users are employing. We must

remodel our libraries to reflect the changes in the ways our students learn and interact with one another. Each librarian we recruit must be a leader capable of creating initiatives and moving them into daily practice." **Tom** earned a bachelor's degree in education from **Kent State University** and a master's in library science from the **University of Washington**. He was a librarian at **Ohio State University**, the **University of Michigan** and **Loyola University** in Chicago before joining the University of South Carolina's library staff in 1991. **McNally** served as director of **Thomas Cooper Library** from 2003 until he was named interim dean of libraries in 2007, replacing **Paul Willis**, who retired. For more than 200 years, the **University of South Carolina** libraries have grown and matured from humble beginnings in **Rutledge Hall** on the historic **Horseshoe**. Today, the collections span eight buildings and include tens of

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promising new initiatives within the scholarly community.” **Ithaka** is an independent not-for-profit organization dedicated to helping the academic community use digital technologies to advance scholarship and teaching and to reducing system-wide costs through collective action. It pursues this mission by managing innovative services that benefit higher education, including **JSTOR**, **Portico**, and **NITLE**, and by providing research and advice to the scholarly community through its research and strategic services groups.

<http://www.Ithaka.org>

Just learned that **Mark Herring** (Director of Libraries, Winthrop University) has a new grandson. **Malcolm Wieland Keeney** was born 6 January, about 5:30 am. He weighed 7 lbs, 14 ounces. When baby sister **Allene** saw him (she’s 3) her mother asked her what she thought. “Can he go live with **Maestro (Mark!)** and **Yia-Yia (Mark’s wife, Carol!)**?” she asked. Both her parents are graduates of **USC MA public history** and **MLS** programs, and **Malcolm** and **Allene’s** father works in the **Carolana**.

**Credo Reference** has partnered with the **Amigos Library Services** to provide reference products to member libraries at a discount. **Our Lady of the Lake University**, in San Antonio, Texas was one of the first to take advantage of the agreement. “With libraries providing access to so many different databases, today’s researchers are inundated with choices. It can be overwhelming,” commented **Judy Larson, Sueltenfuss Library director**. “**Credo** simplifies the research experience, bringing together in just one interface, many cross-searchable, full-text resources ...”

[www.credoreference.com](http://www.credoreference.com)  
[www.amigos.org/](http://www.amigos.org/)

It was truly wonderful to hear from **Celia Wagner** <celiaw7@gmail.com> the other day on **LinkdIn!** You’ll remember **Celia** from when she worked at **Academic Book Center** in Portland and, later, **Blackwell Book Services**. Anyway, **Celia** tells me that she’s working on two non-fiction business books in her spare

time and she also sent us a hilarious **On the Road** column for this issue, p.78. **Celia** used to write the **Book Pricing Updates** for **ATG** from v.1#1 (March, 1989) until v.11#4 (September, 1999). And we can’t forget **On the Road** which ran from v.5#2 (April 1993) to v.14#1 (February 2002) with various authors, **Don Jaeger** the most frequent.

<http://www.against-the-grain.com/>

Speaking of back issues of **ATG**, **Jesse Holden** (Coordinator of Technical Services, Millersville University, Pennsylvania) <jesse.holden@millersville.edu> is looking at a cross-section of the “acquisitions discourse” around the launch of **ATG**, especially the pre/early-WWW (that’s world wide web) years. What a great project. I am looking forward to **Jesse’s** observations.

And, speaking of **ATG**, you will notice that we have a **You Gotta Go to School for “This?”** from **Jared Seay** who wrote **You Gotta Go to School for That?** for many years – v.3#3 (June 1991) to v.13#4 (September 2001), see this issue, p.47. This one’s about **Raves** in libraries. There are many clips on **YouTube** of various library raves. Hmmm ...

Heard from **Albert Majors McClendon** (President, Majors Books) that the **Majors** family is celebrating the 100th anniversary of the **1909 opening** of their Grandad’s opening of the **first medical bookstore** in New Orleans. Y’all will remember that in 2004 when **B&T** acquired **Major’s** wholesale and library services business, the **Majors** family continued running the retail medical bookstore in Dallas. Congratulations to **Al** and the entire **Majors’** family for this milestone!

<http://www.majorsbooks.com>  
<http://www.against-the-grain.com/>

And forgot to say goodbye to the always humorous **Ned Kraft** who wrote **Adventures in Librarianship** from v.15#4 (September 2003) to v.20#4 (September 2008) for **ATG**! **Ned** says that he was burned out on humor which makes us very sad. Thanks to **Ned** for all the hilarious digs at ourselves that he gave us!

And we have some **new columnists** coming on board over the next few months. Am looking forward to contributions from the glamorous **Xan Arch** <xanadu@stanford.

edu> who has already written several **Biz of Acqs** for us. Also, looking forward to some predictions about future developments from **Michael Pelikan** <mpp10@psu.edu>.

What will future issues of **ATG** deal with? Well, the next two issues explore **digital preservation** and are guest edited by the efficient and thorough **Amy Kohrman** (Stanford University), our June issue will be guest edited by **Irv Rockwood** (*Choice* magazine) and will be on the **peer review process**, the September issue will be guest edited by **Beth Bernhardt** (UNC-Greensboro) and there is much more to come! Hope that you have **renewed your subscription!**

And, speaking of the **peer review process**, this is from **Liblicense** (January 9, 2009) — Peer-Review Scandal Shakes French Geologists — Members of the prestigious **Institute of the Physics of the Globe of Paris (IPGP)** are in hot water after it was discovered that they acted as editors for journal manuscripts submitted by their peers. The offending articles were published between 1992 and 2008 in **Earth and Planetary Science Letters**, a journal published by **Elsevier**. At issue largely is whether it is acceptable or not to publish articles in one’s own journal.

<http://scholarlykitchen.sspnet.org/2009/01/09/peer-review-scandal-shakes-french-geologists/>

Speaking of **Elsevier**, I attended the **Elsevier Digital Library Symposium** during **ALA** in Denver. The theme was **Next Gen Librarians: Who Are They & What Do They Want?** This was an interactive session (led by **Daviess Menefee**) with a panel that included **Jack Maness** (University of Colorado, Denver), **Denise Pan** (Auraria Library), **Refugio Ramirez** (UCLA), and **Gary Strong** (UCLA). All were library administrators except **Refugio Ramirez** who was an **MLIS** student. Much of the discussion focused on how future librarians are being trained in library school and on the the lack of qualified “middle management” librarians to replace the baby boomer librarians as they are retiring. Both a challenge and an opportunity. There is **DLS** coverage in the **Wake Forest University Z. Smith Reynolds Library’s Professional Development blog** at [blog.zsr.wfu.edu/pd/](http://blog.zsr.wfu.edu/pd/).

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## Taking Charge ... from page 1

about **PEPRS**, a UK (**JISC**-funded) initiative with the **ISSN Network** to pilot a registry service for those who wish to track and record what e-content is being preserved and by which solution.

- **Finally, we also feature three case studies** of librarians who, using **Private LOCKSS networks (PLNs)** were able to devise highly-customized digital preservation solutions to address their specific needs:

- **Katherine Skinner** and **Martin Halbert** of the **MetaArchive Cooperative** address the fundamental question, “What role should

libraries take in digital preservation?” They believe that as custodians of culture, libraries need to take an active role in the preservation of their collections. They created the **Cooperative** to enable libraries to pool their resources and knowledge to host their own **LOCKSS**-based preservation solution for their digital assets rather than outsourcing this key responsibility to external groups.

- **Daniel Cornwall** and **James R. Jacobs** explain why a community-based effort using a geographically-distributed approach is best for their project, preserving U.S. government documents.

- **Aaron Trehub**, Assistant Dean for Library Technology, **Auburn University**, in his article on the **Alabama Digital Preservation**

**Network**, explains his state’s vulnerability was just one of the reasons why a group of Alabama libraries, archives, museums, and other cultural-heritage organizations banded together to safeguard their digital assets. The geographically-distributed digital preservation model appealed to them, as did the low-cost model.

Part Two features contributions from **Bernie Reilly**, **Nan Rubin**, **Richard Pearce-Moses**, **Micah Altman**, **Julie Sweetkind-Singer**, **James A. Jacobs**, **Victoria Reich** and others writing about their pioneering work in the area of digital preservation. 🐼